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(54) **SPEECH AND MUSIC DISCRIMINATOR FOR
MULTI-MEDIA APPLICATION**

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2009.

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See application file for complete search history.

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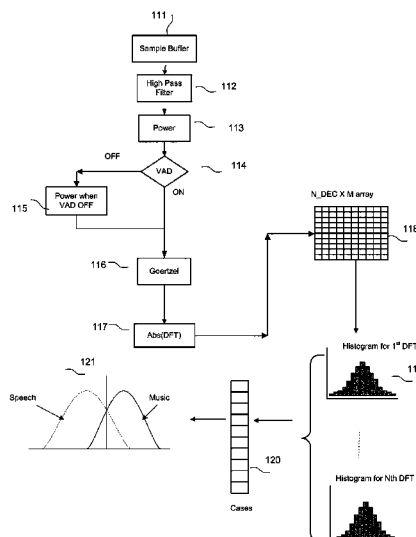
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ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to means and methods of clas-
sifying speech and music signals in voice communication
systems, devices, telephones, and methods, and more specifi-
cally, to systems, devices, and methods that automate control
when either speech or music is detected over communication
links. The present invention provides a novel system and
method for monitoring the audio signal, analyze selected
audio signal components, compare the results of analysis with
a pre-determined threshold value, and classify the audio sig-
nal either as speech or music.

6 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

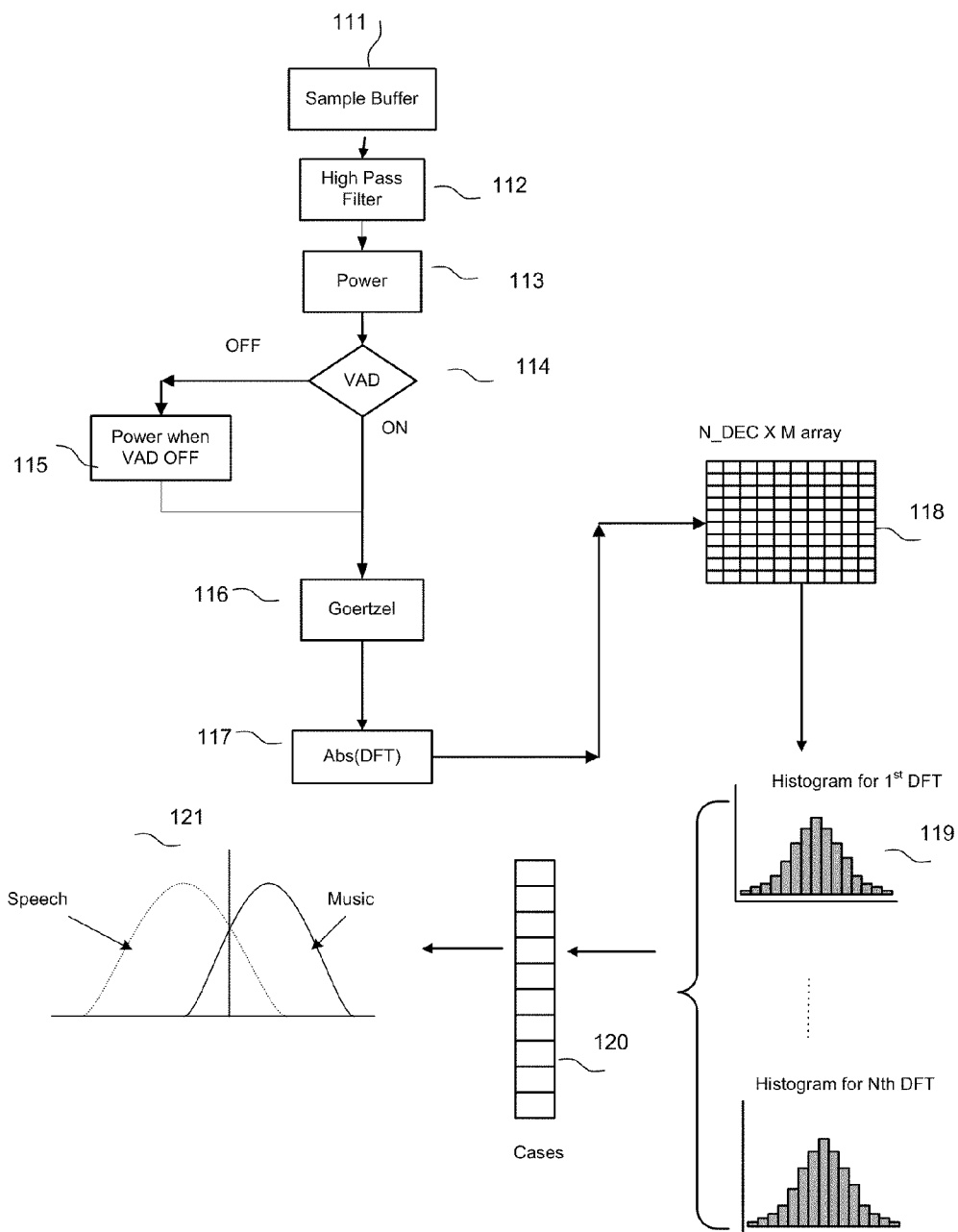


FIG. 2

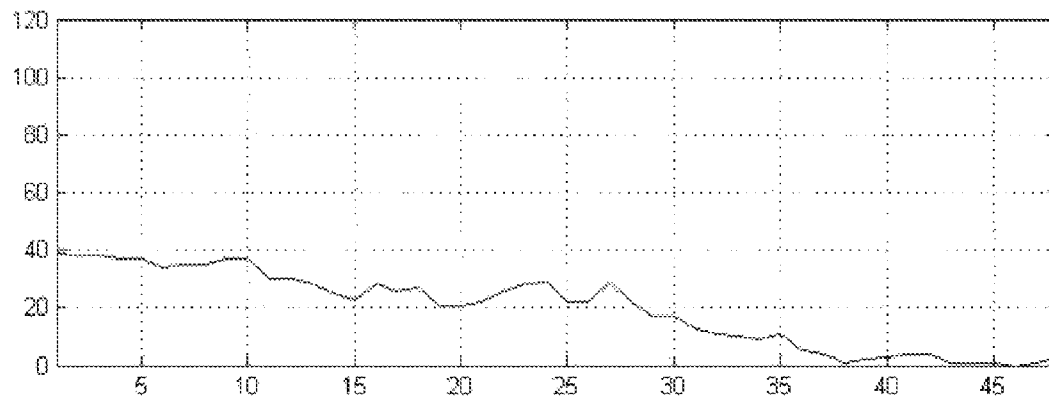


FIG. 3

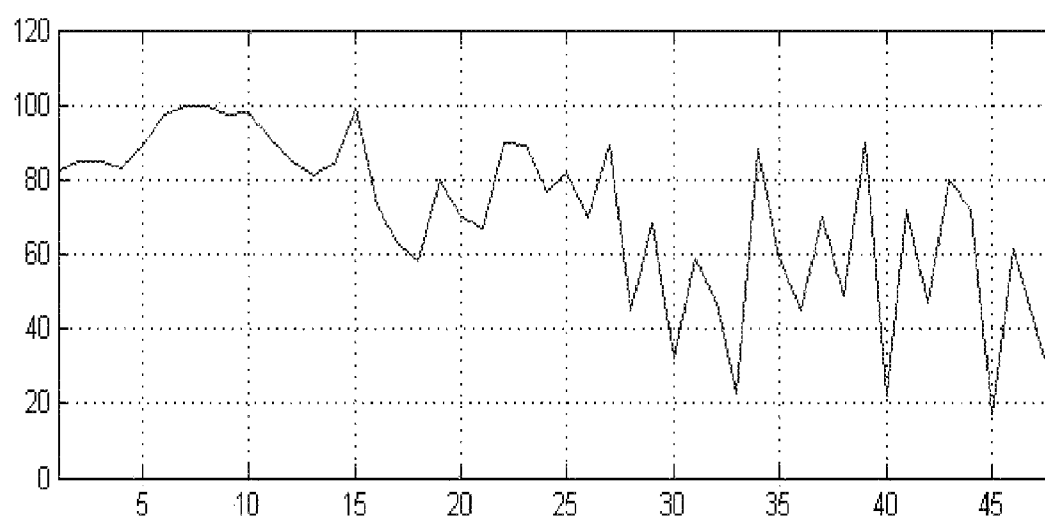


FIG. 4

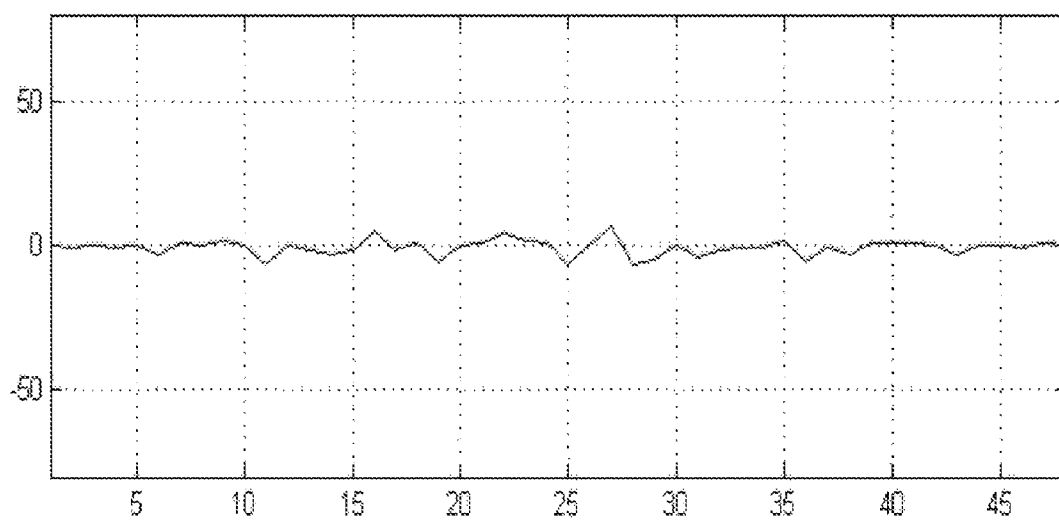


FIG. 5

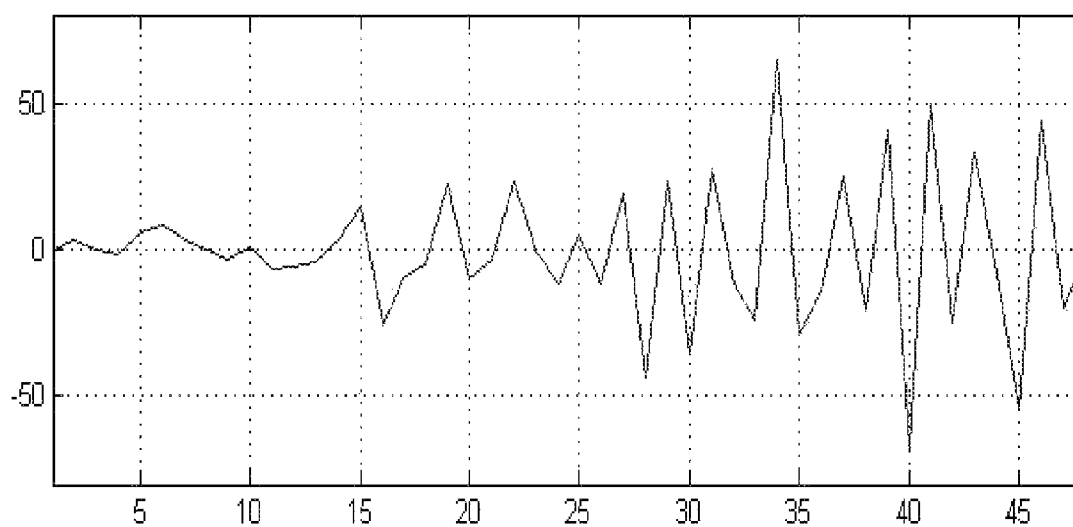
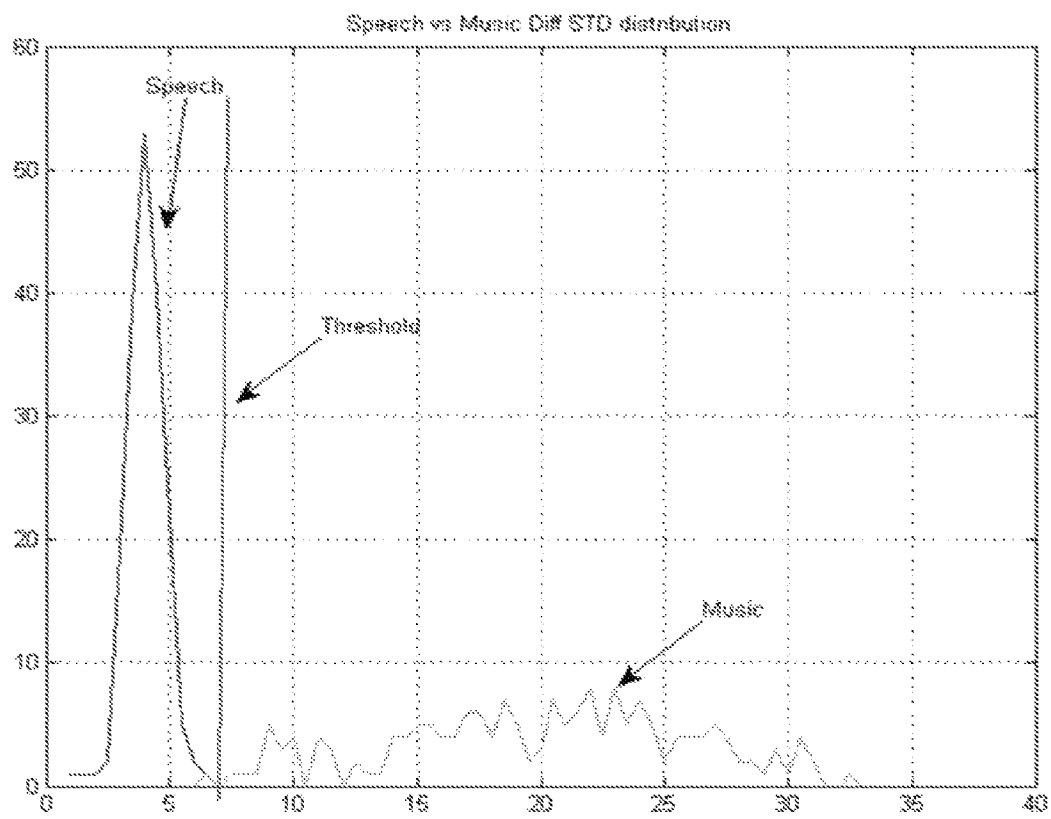


FIG. 6



SPEECH AND MUSIC DISCRIMINATOR FOR MULTI-MEDIA APPLICATION

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to means and methods of classifying speech and music signals in voice communication systems, devices, telephones, and methods, and more specifically, to systems, devices, and methods that automate control when either speech or music is detected over communication links.

This invention relates to the field of processing signals in Cell phones, VoIP phones, Bluetooth headsets, Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) systems, Music on Hold (MoH), Conference Bridge applications and other applications. In general, the invention relates to any device where speech and/or music is transmitted or received.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Voice communication devices such as Cell phones, Wireless phones, Bluetooth Headsets, Hands-free devices, ASR and MoH devices have become ubiquitous; they show up in almost every environment. These systems and devices and their associated communication methods are referred to by a variety of names, such as but not limited to, cellular telephones, cell phones, mobile phones, wireless telephones in the home and the office, and devices such as Personal Data Assistants (PDA[®]) that include a wireless or cellular telephone communication capability. They are used at home, office, inside a car, a train, at the airport, beach, restaurants and bars, on the street, and almost any other venue. As might be expected, these diverse environments transmit different kinds of signals which include, but not limited to, speech only, speech with background noise, music only, speech with background music, as well as other combinations of sounds.

A primary objective is to provide means to efficiently retrieve information from global network of digital media which include mobile phones, internet, T.V., radio and other systems.

As the communication network grows, consumers will demand specific multimedia material stored in the digital media servers. Data mining tools may be used to browse the

servers and download specific speech or music, hence the desire to classify speech and music.

Humans can easily discriminate speech and music by listening to a short segment of signal. A real-time speech/music discriminator proposed by Saunders [1] is used in radio receivers for the automatic monitoring of the audio content in FM radio channels. In conference bridge, Music on Hold applications, it is necessary to disable noise reduction during music durations. Another area of application is ASR. It is important to disable speech recognizer during non-speech and music durations. This can save power for mobile devices.

The speech/music classifiers have been studied extensively and many solutions have been proposed for cell phone, Bluetooth headsets, ASRs, MoH and Conference bridge applications.

Depending upon the particular application, the speech/music classification can be done offline or in real-time. For real-time applications, like Music on Hold, Conference Bridge applications, the method must have low latency and low memory requirements. For offline applications, the constraints on processing speed and memory requirements can be relaxed.

Current speech/music classifier solutions use data from multiple features of an audio signal as input to a classifier. Some data is extracted from individual frames while the other data is extracted from the variations of a particular feature over several frames. An efficient classifier can be achieved only if the speech and music can be detected reliably, consistently and with low error rates.

Several different kinds of speech/music classifiers are known in the related art which extract information based on the nearest-neighbor approach, including a K-d tree spatial partitioning technique.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,761,897 by Jones discloses a discriminator system where rapid drops in the level of an audio signal are measured. If the number of changes per unit frame crosses a particular threshold, the audio signal is labeled as speech. However, it uses a hardware approach to discriminate between speech and music.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,542,525 by Hopf discloses a logic circuit which uses the number of pauses and the time span of simultaneous or alternating appearance of signal pauses derived from the two different pulse sequences. The Hopf invention also employs a hardware solution.

Software solutions like US patent 2005/0091066 A1 by Singhal employ the usage of a zero point crossing counter for classifying speech and music. If the number of zero crossings exceeds a pre-determined threshold value, the incoming signal is considered music. However, this technique is not suitable for windy conditions which have high zero crossing rates.

It is an objective of the present invention to provide methods and devices that overcome disadvantages of prior schemes. Hence there is a need in the art for a method of speech/music discriminator that is robust, suitable for mobile use, and computationally inexpensive to integrate/manufacture with new/existing technologies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a novel system and method for monitoring the audio signal, analyze selected audio signal components, compare the results of analysis with a pre-determined threshold value, and classify the audio signal either as speech or music.

In one aspect of the invention, the invention provides a system and method that enhances the convenience of using a

communications device, in a location having speech only, music only or speech with background music.

In another aspect of the invention, the classification can be done either at the transmitting end or receiving end of a communication system.

In still another aspect of the invention, an enable/disable switch is provided on a communication device to enable/disable the speech/music discrimination.

These and other aspects of the present invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description in conjunction with the associated drawings. The present invention overcomes shortfalls in the related art by using unobvious means and methods to achieve unexpected results.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is diagram of an exemplary embodiment of the block diagram of the speech/music discriminator discussed in the current invention.

FIG. 2 is a plot of the “cases” array when the input signal is speech.

FIG. 3 is a plot of the “cases” array when the input signal is music

FIG. 4 is a plot of the difference between adjacent elements in the “cases” array for speech

FIG. 5 is a plot of the difference between adjacent elements in the “cases” array for music

FIG. 6 is a diagram of the standard deviation distribution of the difference signal described in FIGS. 4 and 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

The following detailed description is directed to certain specific embodiments of the invention. However, the invention can be embodied in a multitude of different ways as defined and covered by the claims and their equivalents. In this description, reference is made to the drawings wherein like parts are designated with like numerals throughout.

Unless otherwise noted in this specification or in the claims, all of the terms used in the specification and the claims will have the meanings normally ascribed to these terms by workers in the art.

The present invention provides a novel and unique speech/music discriminator feature for a communication device such as a cellular telephone, wireless telephone, cordless telephone, recording device, a handset, and other communications and/or recording devices. While the present invention has applicability to at least these types of communications devices, the principles of the present invention are particularly applicable to all types of communication devices, as well as other devices that process or record speech in speech/music environments. For simplicity, the following description employs the term “telephone” or “cellular telephone” as an umbrella term to describe the embodiments of the present invention, but those skilled in the art will appreciate the fact that the use of such “term” is not considered limiting to the scope of the invention, which is set forth by the claims appearing at the end of this description.

Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the invention will be described in detail in reference to the accompanying drawings. It should be understood that like reference numbers are used to indicate like elements even in different drawings. Detailed descriptions of known functions and configurations that may unnecessarily obscure the aspect of the invention have been omitted.

Choosing the features that are capable of classifying the signals is an important step in designing the speech/music classification system. This feature selection is usually based on a priori knowledge of the nature of the signals to be classified. Temporal and spectral features of the input signal are often used. Previous work in this area includes zero-crossings information [1], energy, pitch, and spectral parameters such as cepstral coefficients [2] and [3].

The present invention uses the fact that in music the notes of a chromatic scale have predetermined frequencies and the appearance of these frequencies have specific patterns that allow to distinguish music from speech.

In FIG. 1, block 111 is the input buffer of samples that are to be analyzed. A buffer size of N samples is chosen for analysis and a number of buffers (N_DEC) are processed to reach a decision. N is normally between 512 and 1024 samples and NDEC is between 50 and 100 buffers.

The input buffer is passed through a High Pass Filter (HPF) with a pre-determined cut-off frequency at block 112. The cut-off frequency is selected between 20 and 800 Hz. The output of the HPF is used to compute a power measure 113 using the equation:

$$pwr = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^N x(k) * x(k)$$

Where N is the number of samples in the High Pass filtered buffer and k is the time index. This power is accumulated over a period of time consisting of N_DEC buffers. Once N_DEC buffers are accumulated then the power is transformed to a dB scale as

$$level = 10 \log_{10} \sum_{i=0}^{N_{DEC}} pwr(i)$$

The buffer with the HPF samples is processed by a Voice Activity Detector (VAD), 114, which makes a decision if the current buffer is speech or a pause, under the arbitrarily assumption that the input is speech. The power of the buffer when the VAD is OFF, pwr_sil, is calculated at 115. The power in dB is

$$level_sil = 10 \log_{10} pwr_sil$$

This value is exponentially averaged using the equation

$$level_sil_{avg} = \alpha * level_sil_{avg} + (1 - \alpha) * level_sil$$

α is a value between 0.01 and 0.99. This level is used later to correct the final decision of the classifier.

The Goertzel block 116 identifies specific frequency components of a signal. Given an input sequence x(n), the Goertzel algorithm, computes a sequence, s(n) as

$$s(n) = x(n) + 2 \cos(2\pi\omega)s(n-1) - s(n-2)$$

In contrast with the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) which computes DFT values at all indices, the Goertzel algorithm computes DFT values at a specified subset of indices (i.e., a portion of the signal's frequency range). The absolute value of the DFT is calculated as shown below at block 117.

$$adft = \sqrt{s(n-1)^2 + s(n-2)^2 - 2\cos(2\pi\omega) * s(n-1) * s(n-2)}$$

The specific subset of frequencies where the Goertzel filters are located are the frequencies of the musical notes of the chromatic scale. Typically 3 or 4 octaves are enough to cover the telephony spectrum between 100 Hz and 4 KHz. Depending on the application bandwidth more octaves can be included. The DFTs (Goertzel's outputs) are stored in an array of N_DEC×M, **118**. Where N_DEC represents the number of buffers considered per decision and M represents the number of pre-selected frequencies of the musical notes. Experimental results, showed that the numerical values of most of the DFTs are less than a particular threshold. However, for some signals, some of the DFTs were higher than the threshold. Such DFTs are saturated to a max level. The histograms **119** depicting the energy distribution for each pre-selected frequency (musical note) over a period of time N_DEC are calculated.

The histogram's bins of each note that are over a specified threshold are summed up and stored in a M element array. This array is called the Cases array, **120**. This array represents the "level of activity" of each pre-selected frequency during the N_DEC period.

This is shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3 for speech and music respectively. The difference between adjacent frequencies is also noted. For speech, this signal moves close to zero as shown in FIG. 4. For music this signal fluctuates as shown in FIG. 5. A suitable peak-to-peak threshold is chosen and the number of times the difference signal crosses this threshold is calculated. This is a relevant feature that can be used for the classification process.

A bottom threshold for the signal power is chosen. To make a decision if the current decision period is speech or music, we first compare the power in dB, level with the bottom threshold. If the level is less than bottom threshold, the decision period will be classified as silence.

For signals with power over the bottom threshold the standard deviation of the difference signal is calculated. If the standard deviation is greater than a threshold, the signal is decided to be music as shown in FIG. 6. The threshold is typically between 6 and 8 depending on what level of false detection is acceptable. Fine tuning of the decision is based on average level of silence calculated in paragraph [0028]. If this level is below some pre set threshold for a period representing most of the analysis frames (typically 80%) a decision of Silence is made. Music has rarely long period of silence what is typically for conversational speech.

As described hereinabove, the invention has the advantages of classifying speech and music. While the invention has been described with reference to a detailed example of the preferred embodiment thereof, it is understood that variations and modifications thereof may be made without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. Therefore, it should be understood that the true spirit and the scope of the invention are not limited by the above embodiment, but defined by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words "comprise," "comprising" and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense; that is to say, in a sense of "including, but not limited to." Words using the singular or plural number also include the plural or singular number, respectively. Additionally, the words "herein," "above," "below," and words of similar import, when used in

this application, shall refer to this application as a whole and not to any particular portions of this application.

The above detailed description of embodiments of the invention is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed above. While specific embodiments of, and examples for, the invention are described above for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the invention, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize. For example, while steps are presented in a given order, alternative embodiments may perform routines having steps in a different order. The teachings of the invention provided herein can be applied to other systems, not only the systems described herein. The various embodiments described herein can be combined to provide further embodiments. These and other changes can be made to the invention in light of the detailed description.

All the above references and U.S. patents and applications are incorporated herein by reference. Aspects of the invention can be modified, if necessary, to employ the systems, functions and concepts of the various patents and applications described above to provide yet further embodiments of the invention.

These and other changes can be made to the invention in light of the above detailed description. In general, the terms used in the following claims, should not be construed to limit the invention to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification, unless the above detailed description explicitly defines such terms. Accordingly, the actual scope of the invention encompasses the disclosed embodiments and all equivalent ways of practicing or implementing the invention under the claims.

While certain aspects of the invention are presented below in certain claim forms, the inventors contemplate the various aspects of the invention in any number of claim forms. Accordingly, the inventors reserve the right to add additional claims after filing the application to pursue such additional claim forms for other aspects of the invention.

Embodiments of the invention include but are not limited to the following items:

[Item 1] A method of manipulating sound signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a buffer of N samples of a sound signal;
- b) passing the buffer of N samples through a high pass filter (HPF), with the HPF having a predetermined cut-off frequency in the range of 20 Hz to 800 Hz;
- c) finding the power of the buffer of N samples using the equation:

$$pwr = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^N x(k) * x(k)$$

where N is the number of samples in the buffer and k is the time index;

- d) averaging the power over a period of time where power is expressed as dB or as level and is calculated as

$$\text{level} = 10 \log_{10} \sum_{i=0}^{N_{DEC}} pwr(i)$$

- e) the signal passed through the HPF is processed by a voice activity detection device (VAD) to determine if the result from part d is speech or a pause,

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in the event the input from part d is a pause, pwr_sil is calculated, power is then averaged over a period of time, and expressed in dB is:

$$\text{level_sil} = 10 \log_{10} \text{pwr_sil}$$

the power value (dB) is then exponentially averaged using the equation:

$$\text{level_sil}_{avg} = \alpha * \text{level_sil}_{avg} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{level_sil},$$

wherein α is a value between 0.01 and 0.99

f) the signal passed through the HPF is used as an input sequence $x(n)$ in a Goertzel calculation $s(n) = x(n) + 2 \cos(2\pi\omega) s(n-1) - s(n-2)$ to compute a sequence, $s(n)$, the resulting sequence, $s(n)$ may be used to compute the DFTs at different frequencies;

g) the DFTs are altered to equal their absolute value and then stored in an array $N_DEC \times M$ wherein N_DEC equals the number of buffers considered per decision and M equals the number of pre-selected frequencies of musical notes;

f) histograms depicting energy distribution for each pre-selected frequency of musical notes are calculated and histograms bins with a higher value as compared to a pre-selected threshold are then summed and stored in a $1 \times M$ element array, sometimes called the Cases array;

g) a difference signal is calculated by taking the first difference between adjacent elements in the array depicted in f);

h) calculating the standard deviation of the difference signal;

i) selecting a bottom threshold for the power level;

j) if the standard deviation of the difference signal is greater than the selected threshold (between 6 and 8), the signal is deemed to be a music signal, otherwise the signal is deemed to be speech or a pause.

[Item 2] The method of item 1 wherein N is between 512 to 1024 samples.

[Item 3] The method of item 2 wherein N_DEC is between 50 to 100 buffers.

[Item 4] The method of item 3 wherein K , the time index, is between the values of 1 and N , wherein N is in the range of 512 to 1024.

[Item 5] The method of item 4 wherein M , the number of pre-selected frequencies of musical notes is in the range of 12 to 120.

[Item 6] The method of item 5 wherein the pre-selected frequencies of musical notes are in the frequency ranges of 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manipulating sound signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining a buffer of N samples of a sound signal;
- passing the buffer of N samples through a high pass filter (HPF), with the HPF having a predetermined cut-off frequency in the range of 20 Hz to 800 Hz;
- finding the power of the buffer of N samples using the equation:

$$\text{pwr} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^N x(k) * x(k)$$

where N is the number of samples in the buffer and k is the time index;

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d) averaging the power over a period of time where power is expressed as dB or as level and is calculated as

$$\text{level} = 10 \log_{10} \sum_{i=0}^{N_DEC} \text{pwr}(i)$$

where N_DEC is the number of buffers considered per decision; the signal passed through the HPF is processed by a voice activity detection device (VAD) to determine if the result from part d is speech or a pause, in the event the input is a pause, power calculated is expressed as pwr_sil, where the power is then averaged over a period of time, and expressed in dB as level_sil which is mathematically equal to is:

$$\text{level_sil} = 10 \log_{10} \text{pwr_sil}$$

the power value (dB) is then exponentially averaged using the equation:

$$\text{level_sil}_{avg} = \alpha * \text{level_sil}_{avg} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{level_sil},$$

wherein α is a value between 0.01 and 0.99

e) the signal passed through the HPF is used as an input sequence $x(n)$ in a Goertzel calculation $s(n) = x(n) + 2 \cos(2\pi\omega) s(n-1) - s(n-2)$ to compute a sequence, $s(n)$, the resulting sequence, $s(n)$ is used to compute the DFTs at different frequencies (ω);

f) the DFTs are altered to equal their absolute value and then stored in an array $N_DEC \times M$ wherein M equals the number of pre-selected frequencies of musical notes;

g) histograms depicting energy distribution for each pre-selected frequency of musical notes are calculated and histograms bins with a higher value as compared to a pre-selected threshold are then summed and stored in a $1 \times M$ element array;

h) a difference signal is calculated by taking the first difference between adjacent elements in the array depicted in step (g);

i) calculating the standard deviation of the difference signal;

j) selecting a bottom threshold for the power level;

k) if the standard deviation of the difference signal is greater than the selected threshold (between 6 and 8), the signal is deemed to be a music signal, otherwise the signal is deemed to be speech or a pause, wherein fine tuning of the decision is based on average level of silence (level_sil_{avg}) calculated in step (d) and if this level is below a preset threshold for a period representing 80% of the analysis frames a decision of silence is made.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein N is between 512 to 1024 samples.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein N_DEC is between 50 to 100 buffers.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein K , the time index, is between the values of 1 and N , wherein N is in the range of 512 to 1024.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein M , the number of pre-selected frequencies of musical notes is in the range of 12 to 120.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the pre-selected frequencies of musical notes are in the frequency ranges of 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz.

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